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Good afternoon members of the Public Safety and Security Committee

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I am here to testify on many pieces of proposed legislation, but the theme is the same. Redundancy and cost to our citizens in an already suffering economy.

I oppose:

HB 5800 AN ACT REQUIRING REGISTRATION OF ALL FIREARMS

There are several reasons why this proposed legislation isn't good for Connecticut.

Pistols and revolvers are already recorded at the time of purchase. Any time the state needs to find who has purchased one of these firearms, there is a process to look up this information. A registry would not only make this process redundant and repetitious, it forces citizens with already recorded firearms purchases to "rerecord" that information with the state, and if they fail to do so, make them a criminal for an already registered firearm. This process not only duplicates current effort, but also will cost the state a tremendous amount of money. There is not enough language yet on this bill, but it would be interesting to find out where the funding could be procured for such a registry. There is not one state or nation that has created similar registries and come anywhere near the actual forecasted costs.

There is another issue that I find particularly frightening, the ten day lost or stolen provision of the bill. If a firearm owner is on vacation, sick leave or any similar absence from their home or storage location of a firearm for an extended period of time – they may not know their firearms are yet missing. They can be rendered an instant criminal.

I fail to understand why creating a redundant process would benefit the state, especially at the financial expense involved.

SB 42 AN ACT CONCERNING GUN SAFETY STANDARDS FOR FIRING RANGES

So far, from the current language, I see nothing here that would make any improvements to the range systems here in the state without incurring yet another unneeded financial burden in Connecticut.

As a firearms instructor, I frequent a good number of ranges here in CT (indoor and outdoor) and they all practice very high safety standards that either meet or exceed those used at state facilities (where I practice on a regular basis). It is already in a range's best interest to make sure the range operates safely and I cannot see why any new standards would be needed without any current major issues.

HB 6185 AN ACT CREATING A GUN OFFENDER REGISTRY.

We already have a process in place where we need a background check when we purchase a firearm. That check already verifies whether a purchaser is indeed valid. I can't see any reason why we need yet another expensive process to create more redundancy in the current system.

SUPPORT

**HB 5263 AN ACT AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER BY MAIL.
HB 5270 AN ACT AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER BY MAIL OR BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION.**

These two bills can save a lot of travel, time and expense with the current system. When I went procure my permit last year, there was a wait of almost two hours, for approximately 20 people in line. This has to be costing the state tons of money in wasted revenue for a simple renewal.

HB 5643 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS BY OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS.

This could create revenue for the state by allowing the growing firearms competition market to bring larger firearms events to CT. These events are often multi-day competition events and can bring plenty of much needed revenue to CT in the form of range fees, ammunition, food and lodging and other similar travel expenses.

SB 547 AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARMS.

SB 554 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PISTOL PERMIT APPEALS PROCESS.

We have a large backlog for appeals. Many of these appeals are unjust denials at the local issuing authority level and are very often overturned at hearings. As a firearms instructor, I help students go through the process of acquiring their local permit (which is used to acquire a state permit). Many towns are not complying with current statutes and forcing citizens to wait far in excess of statutory time limits to grant or deny a permit.

Right now, we are in the beginning of February and the earliest time for an appeal according to the Board Firearms Permit Examiners website is mid November. If you add that to the time it takes for many people going through the local process, it can take over a year and a half to get a permit.

This is clearly unacceptable.

I thank the committee for their time and am available to answer any questions at any time if needed.